

The American Observer

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A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Housing Remains A Major Problem

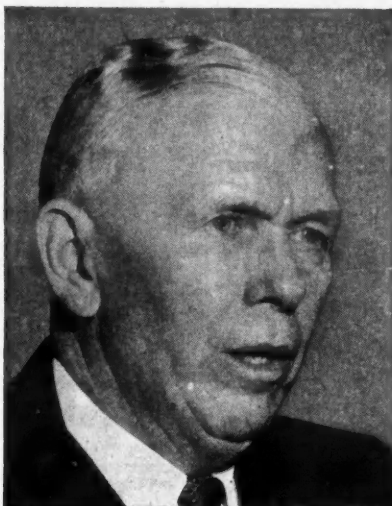
750,000 Homes to Be Finished This Year Fall Far Short of Goal for 1947

A GOAL of one and a quarter million new homes was set for this year, but today it is estimated that only about 750,000 permanent dwellings—houses and apartments—will be completed during 1947. This is a large number of homes, more than were built in most years between the two world wars. Still, it falls far short of solving one of the nation's most serious problems—the housing shortage.

There are really two housing problems pressing for a solution. One is the temporary shortage caused by the small home-building program in the war years and by the large increase in our population during that same period.

Even though the war has been over two years, there are still large numbers of people who must share living quarters with other families. Moreover, many families are having to remain in rooms or apartments which are too small for them. In both cases, the result is overcrowding, which endangers health and tends to produce unhappiness.

In hundreds of communities, furthermore, one can see families living in makeshift dwellings. They are staying in trailers, in Quonset huts which the armed forces disposed of after the war, and in "temporary" (Concluded on page 6)



SECRETARY MARSHALL minces no words in opposing Russia's policies



THE THREAT of the atomic bomb still hangs over the world



RUSSIA'S ANDREI VISHINSKY accuses us of trying to promote a war

UN Debates Atomic Control

Ten Members of Special Commission Favor Plan Advanced by the United States, but Russia and Poland Argue for a Different Type of Program

THE UN Atomic Energy Commission is composed of representatives of a dozen nations, including all the Big Five powers—the United States, Britain, Russia, France, and China. For 15 months, this group has been trying to work out a plan which will protect the world against the danger of atomic warfare. Ten of its members think alike on the kind of program which should be adopted. But two, Russia and Poland, are opposed to the ideas favored by the others.

Any plan of action recommended by this Commission must, in order to be adopted, have the approval of the UN Security Council. Moreover, all the Big Five nations on the Council

must agree on an atomic control program before it can be put into operation.

American officials fear that it may not be possible to reach an agreement on this life-and-death problem. Secretary of State George Marshall has told the UN General Assembly, now meeting in New York, that if Russia and Poland continue their refusal to go along with the majority viewpoint, the deadlock will be extremely dangerous. He and many other UN leaders feel that two nations should not try to block the will of 10.

The Soviet officials reply in bitter terms to Secretary Marshall's attack against them. They claim that the

United States thinks it has a "monopoly" on atomic weapons, and that we are unwilling to adopt their plan of outlawing atomic bombs and of destroying all those now in existence. Andrei Vishinsky, Russian delegate in the General Assembly, has viciously criticized our stand on this issue.

The fact remains, however, that the American point of view has five times as much support in the Atomic Energy Commission as does the Russian position. Furthermore, the members of the United Nations as a whole are lined up about the same way in the controversy.

Why is the Russian bloc of nations so opposed to the atomic views of the majority of countries? Exactly what are the differences of opinion in this dispute? In seeking answers to these questions, let us begin by reviewing the Soviet plan for dealing with the atomic menace.

First of all, the Russian proposal calls upon all nations to enter into a treaty which would outlaw the use of atomic weapons for military purposes. This treaty would make it a "crime against humanity" for any nation to use such weapons.

Within three months after the nations had approved such a treaty, the Russian plan provides for the destruction of all atomic weapons. After that step had been taken, the UN Atomic Energy Commission would then consider plans for inspecting plants, mines, and scientific laboratories in the various nations to see whether the treaty was being violated.

The Commission could not make plans to conduct inspections, however, without the approval of the UN Security Council. The Council cannot act, of course, unless all the five major powers are in agreement. Any one of these nations could, when the time came, prevent an inspection plan from being adopted.

(Concluded on page 2)

A Message to Teen-Agers

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

HELEN GAHAN DOUGLAS, congresswoman from California, has a message to teen-agers in the September *American Magazine*. She speaks of such important problems as the choice of a vocation and the selection of interests and activities.

"Whenever a young friend asks my advice about a choice of this or that career—whether it's painting, music, bookkeeping or boat-building," she says, "my answer is always the same. It doesn't matter what you do. The important question is whether or not you truly want to do it."

Mrs. Douglas continues: "Every one of us has some talent worth working to perfect even though we may not have discovered what it is." It is our job to uncover the talent or special ability, encourage it, put it to work. If we make a hobby of something we like to do, giving a great deal of time to it, this hobby

or special interest may lead us into an enjoyable and profitable vocation. If not, we will at least have had the pleasure of working with it.

To quote Mrs. Douglas again: "Learning to do anything well makes us a richer, happier person, and everything we learn will be used, whether in a professional career, in business, or in rearing our children. The important thing is to discover an absorbing activity and work at it."

For example, if you like music, don't be satisfied to turn on the radio and listen. Don't be an onlooker. Participate in the activity. Sing, play some musical instrument. Give expression to the musical urge that stirs within you.

If you are interested in dramatics, don't merely go to the movies or the theatre. Join a dramatics club. Practice the dramatic art. If you like athletics, go to the games but don't stop at that. Don't spend your life watching other people play. Take part in games and sports. If you like painting, paint. If you are interested in science, join a

science club and go ahead with your studies and experiments.

Suppose you are concerned about public problems, what can you do about it? The California congresswoman, wife of film star Melvin Douglas, says this:

"If I were 17, I would want to know the names of my congressional representatives at Washington, of my state senators and assemblymen, of my aldermen and town councilmen. I would want to know what their party platforms stood for, and how they had voted on specific bills. If I didn't like the way they were voting, I would get out at the next election and attend political meetings in my precinct and distribute campaign literature for candidates who I thought would do a better job."

"That is what democracy means—a continuing struggle to make this a better world. It is a struggle that will never be over, but is that a reason for despair? It is the best reason I can think of for joining the battle to see that this ever-changing world changes for the better instead of for the worse."

Atomic Control

(Concluded from page 1)

Such, in brief, is the procedure which the Russians would follow in dealing with atomic weapons. The American plan, supported by most other nations, is much more sweeping. It would set up a special Atomic Development Authority which would be given broad powers.

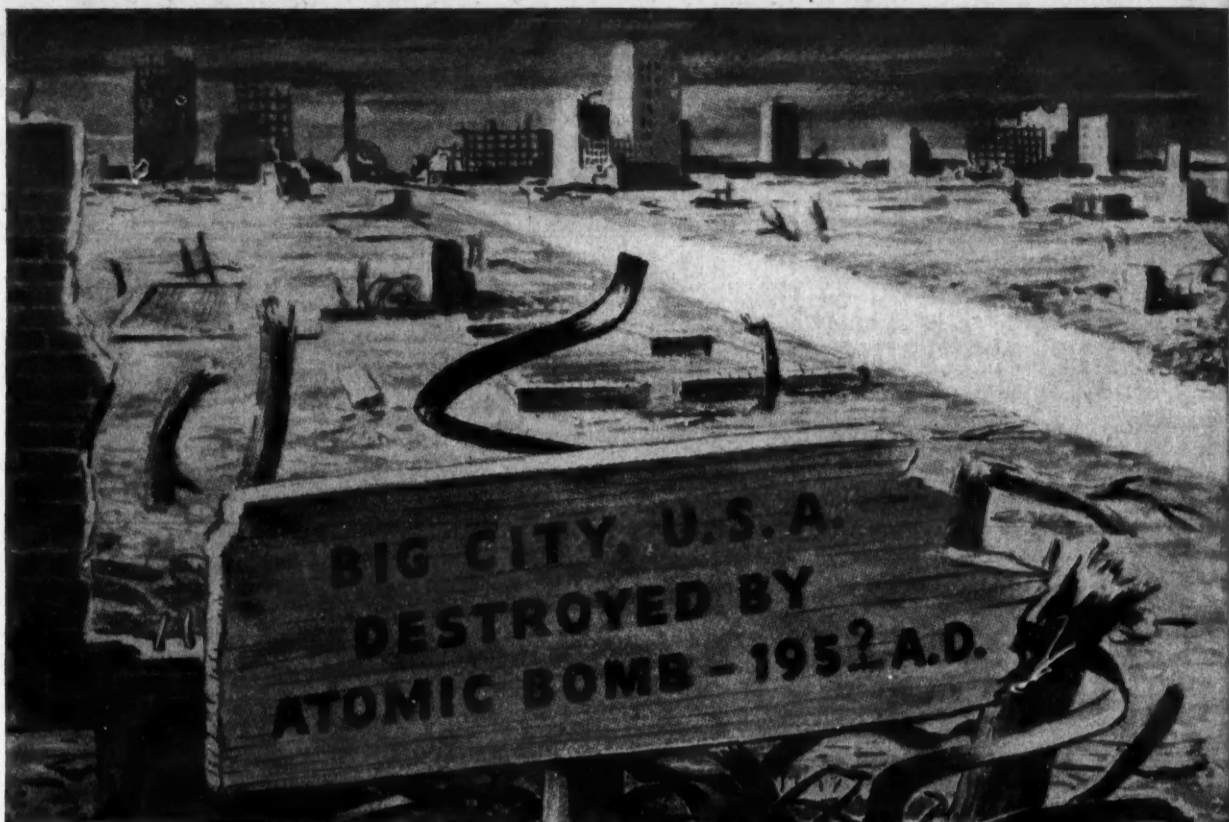
This agency would take over the ownership in every country of all deposits of uranium, thorium, and other materials used in the production of atomic power. It would control and operate all atomic plants and factories. It would have the right to inspect atomic activities in every country. It would notify the Security Council if any person or nation tried to use this source of energy in a harmful or dangerous manner.

The Atomic Development Authority would permit and encourage peacetime uses of atomic energy. After taking the highly explosive qualities out of atomic materials, it would make them available to all nations for industrial, medical, and other purposes. The agency's inspectors, though, would be constantly searching every country to locate any possible preparations for atomic warfare.

This Authority would be under the supervision of the UN Security Council. The American proposal, however, would change the voting rules of the Council on matters involving atomic energy, so that no one nation could "veto" action in this field.

If our program should be accepted by other nations, the United States agrees to destroy its atomic bombs and its plants for making them. But until an effective plan of world control has been set up and put into successful operation, it is understood that we shall continue to keep our atomic bombs and bomb-making plants.

These are the highlights of the



AN ARTIST SHOWS what could happen to a city in the United States if it were struck by an atomic bomb. The picture illustrates vividly why all of us should take an active interest in helping to solve the problem of atomic control.

Russian and American plans. On certain points, the two countries are in agreement. They both are working toward the goal of making it a serious crime for a nation to produce atomic weapons or to use them in warfare. But there are major differences in the two proposals.

One difference involves the question of inspection power for the international atomic control agency. The American leaders contend that it is the most vital matter of all. They point out that the Russian plan leaves this all-important problem to be taken up after the United States has destroyed its atomic bombs. They insist that it must be definitely decided

before we give up our atomic advantages.

If we accepted the Russian proposal and destroyed our bombs, it is argued, what assurance would we have that Russia would later favor a thorough plan of inspection to guarantee that no country could secretly produce atomic weapons? It is contended that Russia, by making use of her veto power in the Security Council, could and probably would block any inspection plan that might be favored by most other countries.

If, continues the argument, the United States is willing to permit UN inspectors to check constantly on its mines, factories, and scientific laboratories, then Russia should be willing to do the same thing. Any nation which will not permit such investigation, it is said, must be considered a threat to the rest of the world.

The Russians reply that they realize some type of inspection plan will have to be worked out later on. At the same time, they insist that the first step is for all nations to show their good faith by pledging themselves in a treaty not to produce atomic weapons. Next, the United States should show its good faith by destroying its atomic bombs. Then after these two steps have been taken, the subject of inspection should be considered. Such is the Soviet position.

If inspection methods are voted upon before our country stops making its bombs, the Russians argue, then the American leaders will hold this weapon over the heads of the other nations in the effort to force them to agree to the ideas of the United States. The Soviet officials declare that they will not yield to this kind of "threat or pressure."

Another big issue dividing the Russians and Americans on atomic energy control involves the veto power in the UN Security Council. The Americans are taking the stand that all atomic questions must be decided by a simple majority, or a two-thirds majority, vote in the Council. No control plan can have any hope of success, they maintain, if one of the big powers can "veto" action whenever it desires.

The Russians, on the other hand, insist that the veto power held by each of the Big Five nations in the Security Council must be preserved, even in matters concerning atomic energy. They point out that the majority of nations in the world today are opposed to Communist Russia. The Soviet Union feels that it must keep the veto power in order to protect itself.

On both the inspection and veto questions, the United States is not expected to make any important concessions to Russia. Most American leaders feel that it would be dangerous to yield on either of these points.

If, therefore, Russia refuses to change her position, it will be impossible to work out an international atomic control program as matters now stand. If this turns out to be the case, it will then be up to the General Assembly to decide what can or should be done about this vital problem.

Our Readers Say—

I do not think the United States should allow Russia to share in the secret of the atomic bomb. It would be a great advantage to have atomic power in industry, but if the energy were made available to all nations we could not be sure that Russia would use it for the good of all.

I think the United States should put the formula in a vault, forget the combination, and discover another kind of power that is less destructive.

MARY ANN MONTAVON,
Akron, Ohio.

★ ★ ★

I believe the only way that war can be prevented is through world government. It is now absolutely necessary that a strong central government be established and that it have complete control over all matters.

The United States recognized after only eight years that the Articles of Confederation were not strong enough

to govern the nation. Surely if a loose central authority could not manage a small country in the 18th Century, a similar organization cannot govern the whole world in the 20th Century.

THEODORE P. HUGGINS,
Danville, Virginia.

★ ★ ★

I think the reason for Russia's emphatic "no" to the atomic energy control plan is mainly to give her scientists time to complete her own bomb. If a control plan goes into effect before the bomb is completed Russia will be thwarted in her endeavors for world conquest. Therefore, if we do not work fast to have some program adopted, Russia will get ahead and control us, bomb and all!

BETTY BACHMANN,
Akron, Ohio.

★ ★ ★

I found an interesting and informative article on social work in a recent issue of your paper. However, I think you made a mistake in your illustration. A social worker never looks in anyone's throat. Sometimes a graduate nurse who has taken up social work might be qualified to look in a throat and know what she was doing, but a social worker does not have this training.

MRS. RALPH JACOBS,
Verona, Wisconsin.

(Editor's Note: The picture you question was furnished to us as an illustration of a social worker. We regret that it gives an erroneous impression. Thank you for calling this matter to our attention.)



Outside Reading

Housing

"Housing: Challenge and Failure," *New Republic*, July 7, 1947. Criticizing the activities of labor, industry, and government in the housing field. Accompanied by several charts.

"Living Space for Americans," by James Miller, 47, June 1947. A detailed report on the housing situation.

Atomic Energy

"The State of Non-War Atomic Research," by Fred Smith, *United Nations World*, July 1947.

"Atomic Challenge," by William Higinbotham and Ernest Lindley, *Headline Series*, booklet number 63, May-June 1947, price 35 cents. Available from Foreign Policy Association, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, New York. Atomic energy—what it is and how men seek to control it.

"The Struggle for Atomic Control," by William Fox, Public Affairs Pamphlet number 129, 1947, price 20 cents. Available from Public Affairs Committee, Inc., 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, New York.

Atomic Energy Now Performing Miracles

Progress Is Being Made in Developing Beneficial Uses for the New Power

UNTIL the nations work together to ban atomic warfare, millions of people will wish that science had never discovered the secret of harnessing atomic energy. They will look upon this tremendous source of power as an evil which threatens their lives.

Atomic energy, however, is no more an enemy of mankind than is the airplane. Like the plane, it can be used either as a weapon or as a tool. The greatest destroyer known to man, it can become a wonder-working servant, bringing vast benefits to civilization.

The useful possibilities of atomic energy already are beginning to unfold. It is giving scientists new substances with which to study the human body, fight disease, experiment with plant life, and improve crops. In almost every field of scientific investigation, it is opening the door to important discoveries.

In the future, moreover, atomic energy may be widely used as a fuel. Taking the place of dwindling supplies of petroleum, it may turn the engines of planes, trains, and ships. Where it would be too costly and difficult to transport coal, atomic energy may be called upon to generate electricity for cities and factories.

The miracles which atomic power, employed as a fuel, may work in the distant future are almost unbelievable. Scientists tell us that "if we could develop the full use of atomic power, the energy from a breath of air could run an airplane continuously for a year. Or out of the pasteboard in a railroad ticket, a passenger train could run several times around the world. And a handful of snow would heat a large apartment house for a year."

The more spectacular of these developments are no doubt far off. Nevertheless, scientists are experimenting with present-day atomic materials—uranium, thorium, and plutonium—as a source of fuel, and they are making good progress.

Right now they are operating power plants which "burn" atomic materials. They also are getting ready to build a large atomic plant in which to conduct more extensive tests.

Located near Schenectady, New York, the big plant may be in operation as early as 1950. The power which it will produce in a year, from a few pounds of atomic "fuel," will be equal to the electricity consumed by a town of several thousand people.

It is not expected that atomic energy



U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (left to right): William Waymack, Chairman; David Lillenthal, Lewis Strauss, Sumner Pike, and Robert Bacher

will soon, if ever, replace other sources of power. We shall, in the foreseeable future, still continue to rely heavily on coal, oil, and water. But atomic plants will be built where there is no coal or water power, or in remote places where it would be too expensive to bring in quantities of ordinary fuel.

For example: Suppose that Canada were to discover a rich vein of iron ore in her far north. Because transportation there is difficult, it would not be easy to bring the ore down to smelters in industrial cities. Smelters could be built near the mines, but then it would be necessary to carry coal to them.

With atomic power, however, smelters in the north would not require coal. Burning only a few pounds of "fuel" a year, they would turn out pig iron, which would be easier and less costly to transport to factory centers than would the crude ore.

Before atomic energy can be used as a fuel for transportation, there is a special obstacle to be overcome. The size and weight of present atomic equipment is much too great to permit it to be used on ordinary ships, locomotives, airplanes, and cars.

Protection Needed

This is due to the fact that atomic materials give off deadly rays from which human beings must be protected. It is therefore necessary to protect people against the rays by using enormous sheets of lead, layers of cement, and other materials. These barriers weigh about 100 tons. Until something can be done to reduce this weight, and still provide safety for people nearby, atomic energy will not be practical for transportation.

Experiments in this field are going on, and most experts feel there is a good chance that the problem will be solved. But when this will happen, only time can tell.

While atomic energy is being developed as a fuel, scientists are also using it as a tool for research. From the nation's atomic piles, they are obtaining substances called radioisotopes with which to conduct experiments. The isotopes are produced from a variety of everyday materials, such as carbon, phosphorus, iron, zinc, and so on. But they are unusual in that they give off rays.

This means that the radioisotopes may be used as "tracers"—little particles which may be watched wherever they go. Thus, they may be placed in the human body, in an animal, in the soil, or in a plant, and kept under constant observation.

For example, atoms of one kind of radioisotopes might be added to a fertilizer. Then the scientist making a test would be able to watch the isotope and see how it is taken up by plants, how it moves through them, and what happens to the plants which receive the substance. Such an experiment could lead to improved fertilizers and to better methods of using them.

Tracer atoms attached to the substances in poisonous sprays might reveal the effects of the sprays on plants and insects. Sent deep into the earth, other types of tracers can be used to plot the underground flow of gas, oil, and water.

Radioisotopes will also trace the action of organs in the body. They will tell us more than we now know about how the body uses minerals, vitamins, and other food substances.

In fact, there appears to be almost no end to the possible uses of atom tracers. Men in every branch of science—from agriculture to zoology—are employing them, both in this country and abroad. For the United States is sharing its supplies of radioisotopes, asking only that foreign scientists report on the discoveries made with the aid of the tracers.

All this research is expected to add greatly to man's knowledge of human life, plants and animals, minerals, industrial methods, and raw materials. With the new information, scientists will be able to provide new ways of protecting health, growing food, and increasing factory production.

We have good reason, therefore, to look upon our atomic energy plants and laboratories as being among the nation's most valuable possessions. Until there is a successful world plan for preventing atomic warfare, we want them to be guarded carefully so that no military secrets will be revealed. At the same time, we want them to be used widely, in order that as many peacetime benefits may be obtained from them as possible.

Five men—members of the Atomic

Energy Commission—are in charge of safeguarding and operating atomic energy plants for the American people. Headed by David Lillenthal, these men have the all-important task of directing the plants and laboratories. As representatives of the government and the people, they control the carefully guarded factories in which atomic materials are made.

They also direct the American mines from which uranium, one of the raw materials for atomic power, is taken. They alone can decide how the uranium is to be used; how many bombs are to be produced; what work is to be done in atomic energy laboratories; what peacetime uses are to be made of atomic power.

Military officials can give the five men advice, but cannot tell them what to do. The five have the final decision on all questions about atomic power within the United States. Only the President of the United States can overrule their decisions.

At some future date, the United Nations may at last agree upon a set of world rules for preventing atomic wars. When that time comes, our Atomic Energy Commission will have to obey those world rules. Then it will simply be in charge of peacetime atomic work within this country.

Once the fear of atomic warfare is removed, all countries can reap the full advantages of the power which is locked in atoms. Although we know these benefits are on the way, we cannot enjoy them fully until there is assurance that the atomic bomb is safely under control.

140 Years Ago — 1807

The Napoleonic wars were in full swing. England had gained control of the seas, but Napoleon had conquered most of Europe.

The European war cast its shadows across the United States. Both the French and the English interfered with American commerce. The American people were divided in their sympathies, and there was grave danger that this country might be drawn into the war.

An embargo, cutting off American shipping with Europe in order to avoid war, was put into effect by the United States.

Thomas Jefferson was President at the time. The following year his friend, James Madison, of Virginia, was elected to take his place. The Federalist Party was still strong, but lost the election to the Republicans.

The *Clermont*, a steam boat invented and built by Robert Fulton, made a trial trip from New York to Albany, a distance of 150 miles, in 32 hours.

There was a heavy migration of population down the Ohio Valley into southern Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, and northern Alabama.

Lewis and Clark made their famous expedition to the West in 1804 and 1805. In 1807 the present site of Yellowstone Park was discovered.

There were still epidemics of yellow fever, which had been a terrible scourge in the early years of our history. The cleanliness campaigns were helping to combat the disease.



LET'S HOPE he can close that switch

The Story of the Week

Marshall Plan

The representatives of 16 European nations worked together for 10 weeks in outlining a list of the resources they have and the goods they need for economic recovery. Their report, drawn up in response to the Marshall Plan, is undergoing careful examination by American officials.

As finally set down, the report asks for about 22 billion dollars' worth of goods to bring about the recovery of western Europe during the next four years. Almost 16 billion dollars of that total would come from the United States. Other countries of the Western Hemisphere would furnish the remainder. The report also outlines what the 16 countries plan to do to make the best use of their own resources, to increase their production, and to trade with one another.

Congress must now decide how much aid the United States can give.

UN Assembly President

Dr. Oswaldo Aranha of Brazil is now serving as president of the UN General Assembly in its second regular session, succeeding Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium. He is well prepared for his new job. Last spring he was president of the General Assembly's special session on Palestine.



Oswaldo Aranha

As a young man Aranha took part in several revolutionary battles in Brazil and was severely wounded in the shoulder. He started his public career in 1925 as mayor of his native town. Since that time he has held a variety of offices.

As Ambassador to the United States from 1934 to 1937, he became an enthusiastic admirer of this country. During most of the crucial war years, Aranha served Brazil as Minister of Foreign Affairs, working vigorously for solidarity of the Americas.

Aranha's home is in Rio de Janeiro where he has practiced law.

DP's in Norway

While many countries continue to be unwilling to admit the homeless people of Europe, Norway reports



PALMIRO TOGLIATTI, Italy's Communist leader

that an experiment which it has undertaken with displaced persons is working out well. Four months ago Norway admitted 400 refugees. An educational program was started to acquaint them with Norwegian life and customs.

Today nearly all the refugees are permanently settled and have jobs. Their employers describe them as "unusually good workers." Most of the DP's have already learned to speak and read the Norwegian language fairly well, and they show every indication of becoming excellent citizens. As soon as more housing is available, Norway intends to admit additional refugees.

This story from Norway parallels reports from other countries where displaced persons have been admitted. The arguments advanced by some that these homeless people would not be good citizens and would be burdens on their new countries seem to be disproved. If the refugees are carefully selected and are admitted in numbers which can be absorbed, they seem to adapt themselves quickly and efficiently to the ways of their new homelands.

Broadcasting Reforms

The code of standards for radio programs which has been suggested by the National Association of Broadcasters has aroused a great deal of interest among radio listeners. Although it has no "teeth," most stations probably will obey this code if it is put into effect. As it now stands, the proposed plan allows only three minutes of advertising during a 15-minute period. Radio stations are to avoid advertisements with annoying sound effects and excessive repetition.

The plan deals with a number of other matters concerning the good taste expected of radio programs. For example, it prohibits broadcasts that include excessive brutality and horror, or that describe crimes in great detail. It requires children's programs to promote sound character development and to refrain from glorifying crime. It demands fairness in the handling of political and other controversial issues, and fairness in the management of listeners' contests. It prohibits the advertising of certain harmful products.

The National Association of Broadcasters represents most of this country's radio stations. Some members have complained that the proposed limitations on advertising would cut their incomes severely. The Association's board of directors will soon meet to discuss these objections. It is possible that the board will make some changes. The code, in some form, is expected to go into effect next February.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is now being observed throughout the nation. For the past 40 years the week which includes October 9—the anniversary of the famous Chicago fire of 1871—has been set aside to focus public attention on the need for eliminating destructive fires.

Remarkable progress has been made in fire prevention in the past 40 years. Nevertheless, even now more than 10,000 persons are killed and over 40,000 are injured each year by fire. Property losses run into hundreds of millions of dollars. Nearly all this destruction can be averted if the proper steps are taken.

This week many schools, businesses, and civic organizations are setting up fire prevention committees. There are many ways in which these groups can promote fire safety. School committees may present assembly programs to acquaint all students with the basic rules of fire safety. Fire drills may be worked out and fire safety laws discussed. Business and civic groups may promote better building construction and better fire fighting service in their local communities.

A good fire prevention committee will not forget its duties at the end of this week. It will be equally

watchful and energetic in carrying out its work during the other 51 weeks of the year. Fires are apt to break out at any time.

Italian Communist Chief

A key figure in Italian politics is 54-year-old Palmiro Togliatti, leader of the Italian Communists. His party, which claims about 2¼ million members, strongly opposes the present government headed by Prime Minister de Gasperi.

In college, Togliatti studied law. Later he became a journalist. In 1921 he helped to organize the Italian Communist party. While Mussolini was in power, Togliatti stayed out of Italy. He spent part of that period in France, and part in Russia. He returned



FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

INVITATION to anarchy—or communism

home in 1944 and since then has actively worked for Communist interests there.

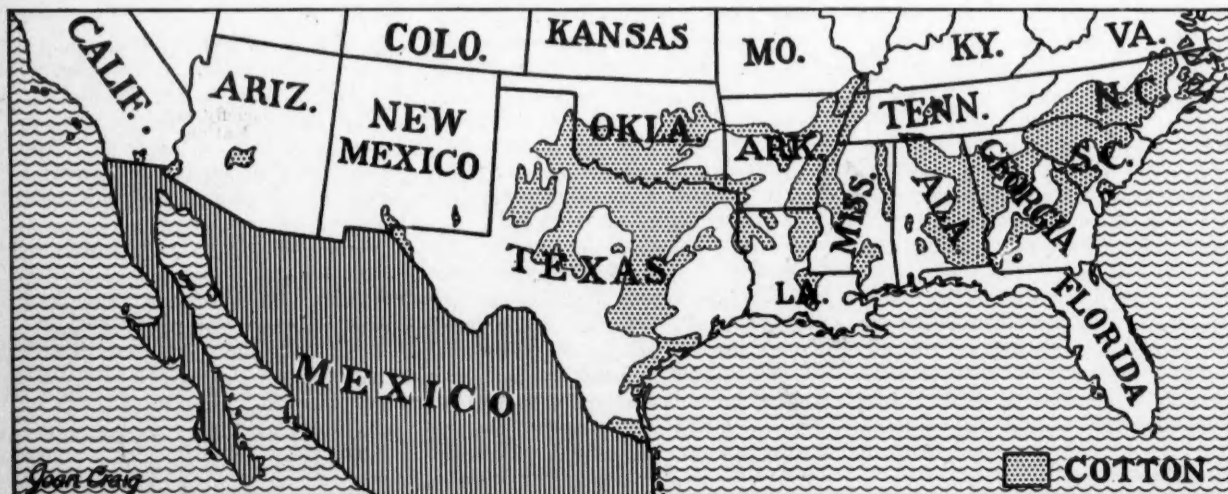
Togliatti and his party are doing everything possible to promote political and economic crises in Italy. They think if conditions become bad enough, they can gain control of the country.

Unhappy Trieste

The old city of Trieste, situated on the upper Adriatic Sea, and a small slice of adjacent back country have been united under the guardianship of the UN Security Council into the Free Territory of Trieste. Wedged between Italy and Yugoslavia, the tiny Free Territory is about half the size of the state of Rhode Island. Of the 3½ million people who live there, about 75 per cent are Italians. The Yugoslavs—the second largest group—are in a majority in the rural areas, but the Italians far outnumber them in the city.

The present status of Trieste, which has long been a leading port and ship-building center, is not pleasing either to Italy or Yugoslavia. As a defeated enemy power, Italy was forced by the peace treaty to give up Trieste, despite the fact that most of the people are Italian. Yugoslavia, supported by Russia, wanted the strategically placed port, but Great Britain and the United States opposed her having it.

As a compromise it was agreed to establish a Free Territory. When the



THE COTTON BELT has produced a good crop this year, but exports of raw cotton and textiles may fall. Foreign countries need these goods now even more than they did during the war. They do not have the dollars, though, to buy them. The problem of helping Europe get the cotton she needs is being considered under the Marshall Plan

Italian peace treaty recently went into effect, the Free Territory of Trieste was born.

The Free Territory is supposed to be supervised by a governor appointed by the Security Council. To back him up will be a force of 15,000 men, divided among the British, Americans, and Yugoslavs. An assembly elected by the people will carry on local rule.

However, the Security Council has not yet been able to agree on a choice for governor. Until it does, the Free Territory will have to be supervised by the commanders of the occupying troops.

Many people believe that as a Free Territory, Trieste has all the explosive qualities of a powder keg. Feeling is strong between the Italians and Yugoslavs. Equally dangerous is the fact that unfortunate Trieste is one of the specific issues on which the Western Powers and the Soviet Union are divided.

Soil Conservation

Almost three-fourths of all the farms in the United States are now included in conservation districts that have been formed to preserve the soil. The districts, numbering more than 1,900, have been established by farmers under the guidance of the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture. Founded a little more than 10 years ago, the Soil Conservation Service is now making its influence felt over a large proportion of the nation's farmland.

Through a variety of methods the Soil Conservation Service combats erosion and human misuse of the land. It instructs farmers in such practices as contour plowing, crop rotation, drainage, and irrigation. It teaches the proper use of pastureland to avoid gullying, and encourages the preservation of timberland to absorb excess surface water.

The work of the Soil Conservation Service is also widely recognized as the first step in effective flood control. Underlying the Service's efforts is the idea that the nation's soil must not be squandered, but must be saved for future generations.

British Athletics

Great Britain, deeply concerned over the poor showing of its athletes in international matches, is now arranging the appointment of a number of athletic coaches. Their salaries will be paid, for the most part, from government funds. In this way the British hope to develop athletes who can hold their own against the champions of other countries.

Since the war the British have not been able to regain the high position which they once held in the sports world. At the famous Wimbledon tennis matches this summer, Americans dominated the play. Americans also swept the Wightman Cup matches in which British and American women's tennis teams compete.

In golf, Babe Zaharias of the United States won the British women's open tournament, and Fred Daly, an Irishman from Ulster, won the men's open. The British were defeated in the Walker Cup matches between American and British amateur golfers.

One British newspaper has even suggested the appointment of a Min-



RADIOS make it possible for UN delegates to hear speeches in any one of five languages as the talks are made. Translations are broadcast and the delegates can tune in on the language they prefer with their individual receiving sets. Two secretaries are giving the instruments a preliminary test in the picture above.

ister of Sports to the cabinet. Many people, however, believe that Britain's poor athletic showing has been due more to the food shortage than to lack of training. Most Americans who compete in Britain take extra food with them.

Pilotless Planes

Aviation experts say that last month's trans-Atlantic flight by a pilotless airplane is just a beginning. They foresee a time when planes will regularly guide themselves across continents and oceans, and land safely in spite of clouds and dense fog.

Fourteen men were aboard the four-engine U. S. Air Force plane when it flew across the Atlantic, but none of them touched its controls at any time during the flight. The aircraft followed radio beams sent from two ships along its route, and from a station in Britain.

The passengers said they were not nervous during the trip, because they knew that the plane's "mechanical

brain" had been adequately tested on similar, though shorter, flights.

Model Car Builders

The model car competition sponsored annually by the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild is already getting underway for 1948. Eight scholarships and more than 700 other awards will be given for the best models of the "car of the future." The purpose of the nation-wide competition is to develop craftsmanship and creative ability among teen-age boys.

Guild representatives are now visiting high schools in major cities throughout the country, explaining the program. Enrollments may also be made by writing to the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild, General Motors Building, Detroit 2, Michigan.

In the 1947 competition the top winners in the senior and junior age divisions were Charles Jordan of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and James Mariol of Canton, Ohio. Each received a \$4,000 university scholarship.

SMILES

In Montana a surgeon operated on a man who swallowed a silver dollar. It is becoming harder every day, it seems, to conceal an asset.

Alligators are harmless when they keep their mouths shut, an expert says. The same thing is true of gossips.

There is implanted in each person the innate ability to act the fool. It isn't necessary for any of us to rehearse in order to turn out a finished performance.

The dictionary is a great comfort. When it gives you information, you don't have the uneasy feeling that it is propaganda.

A bank is an institution where you can borrow money if you can present sufficient evidence to show that you don't need it.

Prime Minister Nehru of the Dominion of India starts out with a severe handicap. He cannot blame anything on a previous administration.

News that a scientist has devised a process of making wool out of milk must make the cows feel rather sheepish.

"What's your idea of civilization?" "It's a good idea. Somebody ought to start it."

Scotchman: "My lad, are you to be my caddie?"

Caddie: "Yes, sir."

Scotchman: "And how are you at finding lost balls?"

Caddie: "Very good, sir."

Scotchman: "Well, look around and find one so we can start the game."

Communication facilities have been so perfected that it is possible on the same day for every nation in the world to be shocked by the conduct of all the others.



"Look what I found frittering away his time in the chemistry laboratory"

Study Guide

Housing

1. What are the two main housing problems that need to be solved at the present time?
2. According to most estimates, how many homes should we build each year for the next decade to overcome the housing shortage?
3. List three factors that have increased the cost of building new dwellings in recent years.
4. What are prefabricated homes?
5. True or false: Most local building codes encourage the use of new materials in houses.
6. Give the main provisions of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill.
7. What arguments are made by persons who think the government should assist in a large-scale home-building program?
8. Give the arguments put forth by those who oppose government interference in housing.

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not favor having the federal government take an active part in the housing field? Defend your position.
2. On the basis of your present information, what do you think of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill?

Atomic Control

1. True or false: It is not necessary for the Big Five in the Security Council to approve a program for control of atomic energy before it is put into effect.
2. Briefly outline the Russian proposal for international control of the energy.
3. Describe the program put forward by our country.
4. What are the two issues in the control plans that have aroused the greatest controversy?
5. Give the positions of both Russia and the United States on these issues.
6. If the Security Council does not solve this problem, what other UN agency may take it up?

Discussion

1. Can you suggest any way in which the deadlock over international control of atomic energy might be overcome? Explain your answer.
2. Do you think our government is right in opposing the Russian program for control? Give your reasons.
3. What do you believe our country and the UN should do if an atomic control program cannot be worked out in the next few months?

Miscellaneous

1. Describe three documents that can be seen on the Freedom Train.
2. Name two fields in which atomic energy may be used to benefit the world.
3. Who is President of the UN General Assembly?
4. What was unusual about the recent flight of a U. S. Air Force plane across the Atlantic?
5. What do many people believe is responsible for the poor showing British athletes have made in international contests?
6. Describe briefly some reforms suggested by the National Association of Broadcasters.
7. How much progress has been made on the Marshall Plan?
8. Why is Trieste said to be unhappy?

Pronunciations

Aranha—ah-rah'nyah (y as in yes)
Cyprus—si'prūs
Famagusta—fah'mah-gōōs'tah
Nicotia—nē'kō-sē'ah
Palmiro Togliatti—pahl-mir'ō tall-yaht'ti
Trieste—trē-est'
Zaharias—zā-hah-ri'ūs
Isotopes—i'sō-tōp

Housing Problem

(Concluded from page 1)

houses which were hastily built for war workers. The only quarters some families can find are garages and other small structures which were never intended to be homes.

That is why it is said: "Be it ever so humble, there's no homelike place for our two million house-hunting families."

Then there is the long-range housing problem. The slums of our towns and cities contain more than six million houses which, though occupied, are really unfit for use. A great many of these dwellings do not have modern bathrooms, running water, or efficient heating systems. For the good of the people living in them and of the communities in which they stand, they should be torn down and replaced.

Many thousands of additional houses are needed on farms which have old and ramshackle dwellings. On a drive across the country, one discovers that there are rural as well as city slums.

How many homes do we need to build in order to provide proper housing for all families in this land? There are many estimates, but most of them range from 1 to 1½ million new homes a year for the next decade.

While shortages of building materials and labor might make it difficult to achieve the top figure for another year or so, the chief obstacle



FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

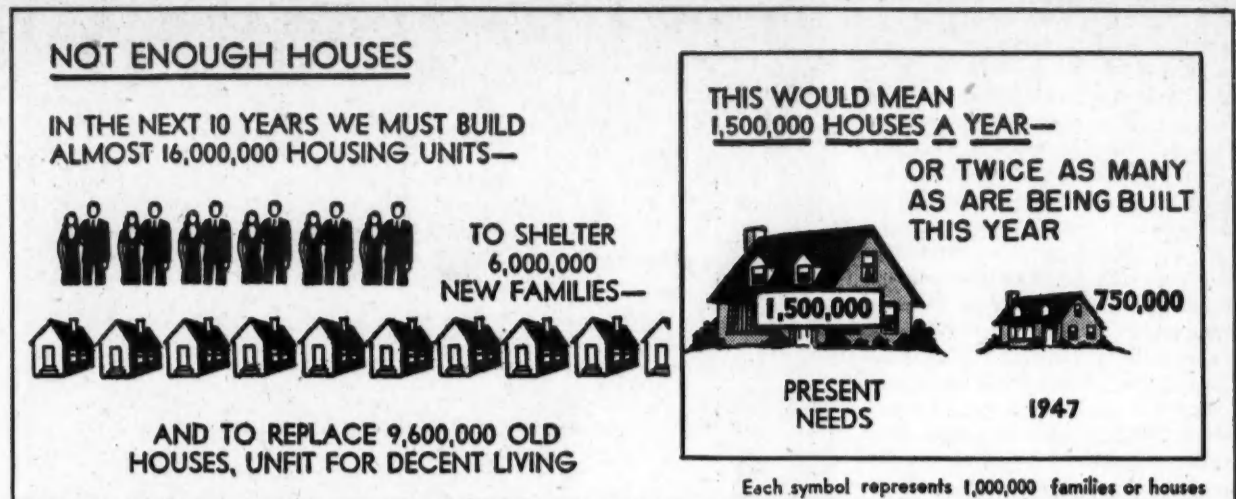
A serious national problem

in the way of a really large-scale, long-range housing program is high prices. A home today may cost anywhere from 50 to 100 per cent more than the same size dwelling cost before the war. Large numbers of people who are desperately in need of new living quarters simply cannot afford to buy or rent them.

The prices of building materials have soared rapidly in recent years. Lumber costs three times as much as it did in 1939. Paint is twice as expensive as it was then, and other materials have gone up similarly.

In most parts of the country, building workers are being paid almost twice as much as they received before the war. Moreover, surveys show that many of them are doing less work in a day's time. Either their hours have been shortened or they have slowed down their working pace. Whether this is true of a majority of construction workers, however, we do not know.

In addition to greatly increased material and labor costs, many building contractors, aware of the abnormal



WE NEED 1,500,000 new houses a year, according to this estimate

demand for houses, are making as large profits as they can. All these factors have contributed to the high cost of homes.

Since the end of the war, many observers have hoped that prefabricated dwellings might play an important role in meeting the housing shortage. Such homes are built in sections at a factory and are assembled on the building site. By using assembly-line methods, they can be produced more cheaply and quickly than dwellings erected in the usual manner.

It is expected that 50,000 "prefabs" will be turned out in 1947. This is not as large a number as many people had hoped for. It has been hard for housing factories to get materials, and difficulties have developed in marketing and shipping the units.

Local building codes have often interfered both with factory-made housing and with the attempt to use new and cheaper materials in the ordinary type of home construction. These codes or rules specify how thick walls and floors must be, and they set other requirements for dwellings. They were adopted over a period of years to protect the public from cheap, poorly built housing, but many of them are outdated. They do not permit the use of new materials and techniques which are cheaper than the old ones and just as effective.

In certain places, materials used in factory-made houses do not meet the requirements of local building codes. Hence, the "prefabs" cannot be erected in a number of communities.

These are some of the big obstacles in the way of an enlarged housing program. Can steps be taken to overcome such difficulties and to get more houses built at prices that the average family can afford?

Many people feel that something can and should be done about this matter. They urge the adoption of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill now on the congressional calendar.

If this bill were passed, the government would assist the building industry so that it could produce about 1½ million houses and apartments each year for a number of years to come. A single government housing agency would be established to handle the job. It would operate laboratories for the purpose of discovering and testing new materials and better methods of construction. Such discoveries would be expected to speed building operations and bring about lower costs.

By making it easier for people to borrow money with which to buy houses, the agency would make it

possible for more families to own homes. Communities also could go to the agency for funds with which to pay for the removal of slums.

This plan arranges for the building and real estate industries to construct and sell nearly all the dwellings put up. There is only one exception—about 500,000 houses and apartments which the government would provide for the benefit of families with low incomes. Private industry would build these, but the federal government would pay most of the costs. Moreover, the local communities would sell or operate these dwellings.

Supporters of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill point out that the government would not be doing the building, nor would it pay for more than a limited number of the houses. It simply would give the entire program strong support. Such a plan, it is claimed, would cost the government only about 150 million dollars a year.

A well-housed nation, continues the argument, is essential to our country's welfare. People who do not have proper living quarters cannot be blamed if they are inefficient workers or incompetent citizens. If private industry fails to provide good homes for large numbers of people at prices they can afford, then it is the government's responsibility to help solve the problem.

Critics of this view do not feel that the government should participate in housing activities on a large scale. They argue their case as follows:

"The private construction industry has performed miracles since the war, considering the tremendous obstacles which have been in its path. When account is taken of material and labor shortages, the erection of 750,000 homes this year is a real feat. The building industry's record since

the war compares very favorably with that of the highly efficient automobile industry.

"After all, the car manufacturers are not turning out nearly enough automobiles. They could sell millions more than they are making, but the factories simply cannot obtain the necessary materials or force their machinery to turn any faster.

"Nevertheless, no one seriously suggests that the government should step in and help the auto makers produce cars, important as they are to American life. It is simply recognized that autos could not be manufactured during the war years, and that it takes time to fill all the orders which piled up. Why not, therefore, look at the building industry's problems in the same way?

"Unless the government is going to spend billions of dollars on houses and sell or rent them to people at a great loss, it is in no better position to provide low-cost homes than is private industry. After all, even if it built the homes, it would have to pay the same high costs for materials and labor that ordinary contractors do.

"If the government begins to regulate the activities of private builders, the nation's housing progress will be retarded rather than speeded up. The first year after the war, only about half a million homes were built in this country. During the present 12-month period, three-quarters of a million will be constructed. If the government gives the private construction industry a relatively free hand, it will build more than a million dwellings next year, and will gradually solve the country's housing problem."

That is where the debate over housing now stands. Congress may consider the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill at its next meeting.

YOUR VOCABULARY

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 4, for the correct answers.

1. They finally tired of the doctor's *caprices*. (a) whims (b) failures (c) remedies (d) stories.
2. The whole scheme was *diabolical*. (a) clever (b) fiendish (c) novel (d) unworkable.
3. The sound was almost *inaudible*. (a) deafening (b) terrifying (c) impossible to hear (d) musical.

4. We finally *retrieved* (re-trēvd') the automobile. (a) sold (b) bought (c) lost (d) recovered.

5. The old professor had a *benign* (bē-nin') expression. (a) sad (b) kindly (c) intelligent (d) thoughtful.

6. He planned to *interrogate* (in-tair'ō-gāt) the witnesses. (a) observe (b) investigate (c) question (d) see.

7. Some parts of the book were *laudable* (lawd'uh-bl). (a) inaccurate (b) praiseworthy (c) dull (d) exciting.

8. Did you like the soloist's *austere* (ōs-tēr') costume? (a) becoming (b) appropriate (c) unusual (d) severe.

Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

WE frequently hear attacks on politics and politicians. The other day I overheard a man talking about the 1948 presidential campaign which is now getting under way. He said that if we could eliminate politics and shoot all our politicians, the country would be better off.

This man was probably attempting to be humorous, but his remark typified the attitude of many people. As a matter of fact, Emerson is quoted as having once said:

"The horse has virtually disappeared, the cow is next, and politics will follow."

Such an opinion, if taken seriously, and I doubt that Emerson did, is an example of very loose thinking. Politics is the science or practice of government, of handling public affairs. Public affairs may be handled wisely or unwisely, efficiently or inefficiently, honestly or dishonestly. But if they are handled at all, the handling or management of them is, by definition, politics.

If we do away with politics we do away with democratic government.



Clay Coss

In nations where the control of public affairs is by the people or their representatives, there must be politics, for that is the machinery of handling governmental problems. The man to whom I have referred, and others who share his feelings, are thinking of inefficient or dishonest management of public affairs. But such a use of the term "politics" is one which can have serious consequences. Those who are trying to destroy confidence in democracy berate politics as an evil. So when too many people follow their example, the effect may be to impair faith in democracy and thereby weaken it.

Clear-thinking friends of democracy admit evils and inefficiencies in the handling of public problems. As a remedy, though, they do not make sweeping charges against politics and politicians in general. Instead, they ask that larger numbers of people participate in public affairs, and that they prepare to do so efficiently and patriotically.

The most valuable crop in our country is corn, and it is grown in all of the 48 states. Iowa leads the production of this grain, with Illinois next in rank. Nowadays, no part of corn is wasted. Even the tassels are used to feed livestock, and industrial products such as soap, glycerin, and dynamite are manufactured from the oil.

Chemists now say that they have found a method of treating topsoil with chemicals which makes it claylike. Since the claylike soil does not wash away easily, the earth becomes more resistant to floods. They also found that soil treated in this manner retains the minerals which are necessary to produce bountiful crops.



PLUMBING is learned through an apprenticeship course

NYA PHOTO

A Future Career - - Plumbing

THE plumber's work is closely linked to that of carpenters, bricklayers, and other construction workers. When times are good and the building industry is thriving, as is now the case, workers in these fields are usually employed full-time at good wages. But when there is a depression, wages fall and people engaged in the building trades are often unemployed.

Despite ups and downs, however, plumbing offers better-than-average vocational opportunities for the young man who has mechanical ability and can use his hands to do hard and precise work. Persons in this field learn the job through an apprenticeship. In the larger cities and towns such training is under the direction of the plumbers' union—the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steam Fitters.

The apprenticeship program covers five years. It includes actual work in which the trainee learns to use the many tools that plumbing requires. It also involves a certain number of hours of classroom training—work in physics and chemistry as they apply to plumbing, the reading of blueprints, mechanical drawing, and similar subjects.

During this five-year period, an apprentice is paid for his work. The beginning wage is usually one-fourth that of the skilled plumber, but the apprentice receives regular increases if his work is satisfactory.

Tests Required

When his apprenticeship is completed, the young plumber is ready to take the examinations his state and city may require before he can be licensed as a journeyman. After he has worked for a number of years, he may take advanced examinations and become a master plumber.

The plumber's job is primarily to install and repair the systems of pipe and fixtures for water, sewage, and gas in homes and larger buildings. When a building is being constructed, a master plumber plans the layout of the pipes and draws blueprints to show where they go. After construction has progressed to a certain point, journeymen plumbers place the pipes in the positions indicated on the blueprints and make the necessary connections with city water and gas systems. When the walls and floors of the building are completed, the plumber installs the fixtures.

In addition to his work with plumb-

ing systems, men trained in this field are needed to put in heating and air-conditioning units and to install the sprinkling systems that are sometimes used to protect large buildings from fire.

Plumbers in smaller localities are often self-employed. They may do only installation and repair work, or they may have a salesroom where they display and sell fixtures. Their incomes vary widely and depend upon their general business ability.

Master plumbers often act as contractors and plan large plumbing systems. They employ a number of journeymen and may have fairly large establishments. Earnings of these contractors vary, but they ordinarily make the highest incomes in the plumbing field.

Sources of Employment

Most plumbers, after they finish their apprenticeship, are employed by contractors or by other established firms who need their services. They receive regular wages which now average about \$1.80 an hour, or \$3,600 a year for those who are employed full-time. Many, of course, earn less than this amount. In 1940, the average wage for plumbers was about 95 cents an hour, or \$1,900 a year for full-time work. The present high wages may or may not continue, but they are expected to remain near their present levels.

Young men who are interested in this field may ask about apprentice training at the public employment office in their communities. Information may also be secured from the local union, or by writing to the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada, Machinists Building, Ninth Street and Mount Vernon Place, Washington 1, D. C.

In 1950 the countries of the Western Hemisphere will attempt the first international census ever conducted. The census will be carried out in 22 American nations. Not only will the survey tabulate the number of persons in these countries, but also their sex, age, occupation, and the place of birth.

Although population is the principal aim, efforts will also be made to determine farm resources, housing facilities, and business and industrial conditions. Few censuses have been taken in most Latin American lands.

Monthly Test

Note to teachers. This test covers the issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for September 8, 15, 22, and 29. The answer key appears in this week's issue of The Civic Leader.

Directions for students. After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write "true" if the statement is true and "false" if the statement is false.

1. Russia and the countries under her control refuse to cooperate with the Marshall Plan for speeding European recovery.

2. Since gaining their independence from British rule, the people of India have engaged in bitter religious quarrels among themselves.

3. The United Nations has not yet established a "world police force" to preserve the peace.

4. A committee of doctors appointed by the New York Academy of Medicine has recommended that the United States immediately adopt a nation-wide program of compulsory health insurance.

5. Greenland and Canada are not included within the "security zone" provided for in the Rio Pact.

6. Under the Taft-Hartley Act, unions will not be recognized by the National Labor Relations Board until their officers sign statements that they are opposed to communism.

7. Egypt has protested to the UN Security Council against the presence of British troops on her soil.

8. The two nations into which India is now divided have cut all their political ties with England.

9. Rural areas generally have fewer doctors and dentists in proportion to their population than do the larger cities.

10. All members of the United Nations are represented in the General Assembly.

11. The Rio Pact is contrary to the principles of the United Nations.

12. The peace treaty with Italy provides that American and British troops will remain in that country for three more years.

13. Under the new organization for national defense, the Air Force has equal rank with the Army and Navy.

14. A revolution in Paraguay has overthrown President Morinigo and put a communist-supported leader in his place.

15. Members of the United Nations have not yet been able to agree upon a plan for the international control of atomic energy.

16. Since the end of the war the British people have enjoyed a period of prosperity.

17. Russian leaders have expressed their full approval of the Rio Pact.

18. More than 100 members of Congress are traveling abroad to study world conditions at first hand.

19. A recent report by the U. S. Bureau of the Census shows an increase in the number of people living in the western states.

20. In old India the Moslems outnumbered the Hindus.

For each of the following questions and incomplete statements, write the number of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

1. Which members of the United Nations possess the veto power? (1) All members of the General Assembly. (2) Judges of the International Court of Justice. (3) All members of the Security Council. (4) The five permanent members of the Security Council.

2. The United Nations committee which investigated the Palestine problem recommended that (1) no more Jews be allowed to enter the Holy Land, (2) the Arabs be given full control of the country, (3) Palestine be divided into two parts, one for Jews and one for Arabs, (4) Britain continue to rule the country without change.

Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

3. According to the Rio Pact, if any Western Hemisphere nation is attacked by an outside power, (1) the "Hemisphere police force" will come to its rescue, (2) American nations may immediately send aid individually and then consult together, (3) no action will be taken until the UN Security Council meets.

4. When will the next presidential election be held in the United States? (1) November, 1948, (2) December, 1947, (3) January, 1948, (4) June, 1948.

5. What is supposed to be the most powerful branch of the United Nations? (1) General Assembly, (2) Security Council, (3) Secretariat, (4) Economic and Social Council.

6. The Marshall Plan provides that war-torn European nations (1) will be given no further help by the United States, (2) must look to the United Nations for financial aid, (3) will be assisted by the United States if they do everything possible to help themselves.

Identify the following men who are prominent in the news. Choose the proper description for each man from the list given below. Write the capital letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the man to whom it applies.

1. Warren Austin
2. James Forrestal
3. Ali Jinnah
4. William Clayton
5. Robert A. Taft
6. Trygve Lie
7. Thomas E. Dewey
8. Dwight Eisenhower

(A) Hindu Prime Minister of the Dominion of India

(B) Secretary-General of the United Nations

(C) U. S. Army Chief of Staff

(D) Leader of Indian Moslems

(E) Secretary of Defense in President's Cabinet

(F) Governor of New York state

(G) U. S. Secretary of State

(H) Senator from Ohio

(I) Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs

(J) American delegate to UN Security Council

In each of the following items, select the word which most nearly defines the word in *italics* and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. He made a *vehement* protest. (a) stupid, (b) weak, (c) violent, (d) calm.

2. Even the *timorous* members of the organization approved the plan. (a) radical, (b) fearful, (c) aged, (d) hot-tempered.

3. The *bigotry* of the people was shown by their remarks. (a) intolerance, (b) poverty, (c) sympathy, (d) extravagance.

4. The decision of the judges was *irrevocable*. (a) surprising, (b) unwise, (c) unjust, (d) unchangeable.

5. Can you *clarify* that statement? (a) make clear, (b) prove, (c) understand, (d) refute.

Answer the following questions directly on your answer sheet.

1. Name the two nations into which India has been divided.

2. In what city will the permanent headquarters of the United Nations be located?

3. How many nations are members of the UN Security Council?

4. What American President declared in 1823 that the United States would oppose any outside interference with the nations of this Hemisphere?

5. Name the five countries which are permanent members of the UN Security Council.

6. What European country owns Greenland?

Empires Have Fought Over Cyprus

Its Location Gives It Vital Military Importance

THE island of Cyprus has for many centuries been connected with struggles for power in the eastern Mediterranean. Time after time it changed hands as empires of the ancient Phoenicians, Greeks, Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, and Romans developed and perished along the Mediterranean shores.

Today, this colony of Great Britain is in the news as a possible military base. Now, as always, the eastern Mediterranean region is a scene of competition among the great world powers. Russia's occasional quarrels with two of her southern neighbors, Turkey and Iran, have shown that the Soviet Union strongly desires to extend its influence southward.

Britain and the United States are determined to prevent it from doing this, and also to protect their own interests in the Mediterranean region and the Middle East. If a conflict among the great powers should develop, Cyprus would undoubtedly be involved. It is now reported that the British are hard at work building new roads on that island, and making other improvements.

Cyprus, the third largest island in the Mediterranean, has an area about three times that of Rhode Island. It is about 50 miles from the mainland of Turkey and a little farther from Syria. There are mountain ranges along the northern and southern coasts. Between is a broad plateau.

The approximately 400,000 inhabitants—Greek Christians and Turk-



ish Mohammedans—make Cyprus a patchwork of villages. The people raise livestock and a number of crops, including grain, olives, fruit, cotton, and vegetables. Many of these products, as well as copper, building stone, salt, and sponges, are sold abroad. Cyprus was, in ancient times, so important as a source of copper that both the word "copper" and the chemical symbol for that metal come from the name of the island.

Cyprus was once heavily forested. Shipbuilders prized its wood highly. Through neglect and wasteful cutting, most of the forests have been destroyed. The British government is now trying to restore them. Likewise, the British are making an effort to improve the rather primitive farming methods in Cyprus, and to increase the amount of farm land by means of irrigation. Other government proj-

ects include an effort to wipe out the malaria which is prevalent in certain areas, and to raise educational standards. Half the people cannot read and write.

Most of the people who live on Cyprus are of Greek descent. Some of them want Great Britain to turn the island over to Greece, but British officials have announced that they have no intention of doing so. At present, because of the extremely shaky political situation in Greece, there is no strong agitation for placing Cyprus under Greek rule.

Answers to Vocabulary Test

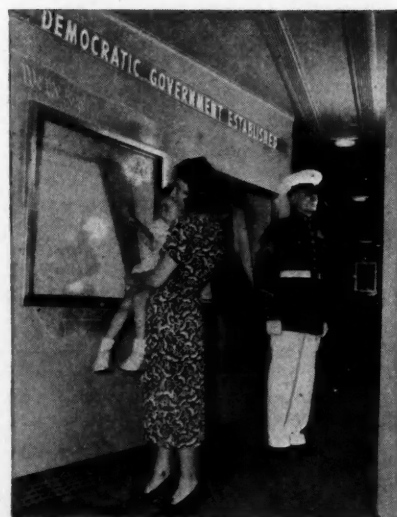
1. (a) whims; 2. (b) fiendish; 3. (c) impossible to hear; 4. (d) recovered; 5. (b) kindly; 6. (c) question; 7. (b) praiseworthy; 8. (d) severe.

Historical Backgrounds - - Famous Documents

THE six-car Freedom Train, which is now touring the nation, will cover 29,000 miles and pass through all 48 states. At each stop along the way, large numbers of people are getting on this train and walking down its aisles to see, in glass cases and frames, the documents which contain the record of American democracy.

Students and teachers of history who live in communities along the train's route will be fortunate enough to see the following documents, along with many others:

Magna Carta. One of the first victories in the battle for human rights



THE FREEDOM TRAIN is touring the country so that citizens everywhere may see priceless documents of our history.

was won in June 1215, when a group of English barons forced King John to sign the Magna Carta, or Great Charter. It promised that no taxes would be collected without the consent of those who were to pay, and that every free man accused of a crime should be given a fair trial. These and other guarantees which it made to the English were established in this country five centuries later.

Mayflower Compact. The Pilgrims came to these shores in 1620 and established an important rule of democratic government in their colony. They agreed, in the Mayflower Compact, to set up a government chosen by all of them, and then to support that government.

Roger Williams' Statement on Religious Freedom. A young minister, Roger Williams, fled England in 1631 to escape persecution for his religious beliefs. After landing in Boston, he found he was still not free to worship as he pleased. Forced to leave, he set up a new colony in what is now Rhode Island, and there established religious liberty. There, too, he wrote a statement of his belief in free religion.

Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson was only 33 when, as a member of a committee of five, he wrote the Declaration. After making a few changes, the Continental Congress approved the document on July 4, 1776.

Treaty of Paris. In this document, signed in 1783, England officially rec-

ognized American independence. The treaty is written by hand, and is signed for the United States by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay.

United States Constitution. George Washington presided over the group of men who represented the states at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. After weeks of work, they completed the new rules of government on September 17, 1787. The Continental Congress sent copies to the states, and by June 1788, nine states had approved it. The government declared it to be in effect March 1789.

Bill of Rights. Immediately after the Constitution was adopted, efforts were launched to improve it. The leaders of the nation wanted to make sure that rights of individuals would be protected and respected. They sought to guarantee these rights by placing additional rules, or amendments, in the Constitution. By December 1791, the amendments were fully approved.

Gettysburg Address. In 10 stirring sentences, Abraham Lincoln gave us one of the greatest statements of American democracy and freedom that has ever been made. It was delivered on the afternoon of November 19, 1863, at the dedication of a soldier cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

United Nations Charter. The train will carry a copy of the rules of the United Nations, prepared in San Francisco during the spring of 1945.